

Appl. No. 09/706,937

Amdt. dated October 14, 2008

Request for continued examination after final office of June 25, 2008

REMARKS

This amendment accompanies the filing of a REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION following the final office action mailed on June 25, 2008. The Office Action rejected Claim 14 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,650,998 ("Rutledge"); Claims 1-6, 8 and 15 as obvious in view of the combination of Rutledge and U.S. Pat. No. 6,308,177 ("Israni"); Claim 11 as obvious in view of the combination of Rutledge and U.S. Pat. No. 6,684,219 ("Shaw"); Claims 9, 10 as obvious in view of the combination of Rutledge and U.S. Pat. No. 5,974,419 ("Ashby"); and Claim 12 and 13 as obvious in view of the combination of Rutledge and U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,474 ("Dunworth").

Applicants have amended Claims 9-14; no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present application are allowable, as explained below.

Independent Claim 14

Independent Claim 14 was rejected as being anticipated by Rutledge; however, Rutledge fails to disclose or teach all of the claim elements. Claim 14 has been amended and support for these amendments may be found at page 1, lines 25-26; page 2, lines 15-19 and page 6, lines 8-12. Claim 14 recites a k-d tree indexing structure used to index parcels of geographic data. The indexing structure has first and second dimensions that include latitude and longitude boundary information. The third dimension includes rank information.

As stated in the Office Action at page 6, Rutledge does not teach the claim element of the third dimension includes rank information. Briefly, Rutledge discloses in Figure 10 a format of a database storing information that relates place names to geographic extents. (*see*: Rutledge, column 2, lines 51-53). That is, each record for a place name includes the fields of state, country, minimum and maximum latitude and longitude. Rutledge fails to disclose the k-d tree indexing structure and rank information of the third dimension.

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The Office Action at pages 6 & 9 cited Israni for disclosing rank information and the k-d tree indexing structure. Although Israni¹ discloses a k-d tree index, Israni discloses two-dimensional (2D) k-d trees. (*see*: Israni, column 21, lines 16-17). Similarly to Israni which is assigned to the assignee of the present application, the same 2D k-d tree index structure is discussed in the background section of the Applicants' specification. The 2D k-d tree index shown on the right side of Fig. 5A mirrors of 2D k-d tree index shown in the bottom half on Figure 1 (prior art) of the present application. That is, the 2D k-d tree index in Fig.5 of Israni includes latitude & longitude information for layers 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the 2D k-d tree index of Figure 1 (prior art) of the present application for layer 0 includes latitude & longitude information for ranks 0, 1, 2. Because Israni and the prior art described in the background of the present application only disclose 2D k-d tree index, the k-d tree index cannot include rank information. Simply, the k-d tree index in Israni does not include rank information; rather, Israni provides separate a k-d tree index for each level. That is, the index shown in Fig 5A is an index for layers 1-4, Israni will also have a separate index for layers 4-2, a separate index for layers 4-3 and a separate index for layer 4.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites an indexing structure with a first dimension including latitude boundary information, a second dimension including longitude boundary information and a third dimension including rank information. As discussed above in conjunction with Claim 14, the combination of Rutledge and Israni fail to disclose the third dimension of the index including rank information. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent Claim 1 be withdrawn.

¹ The Israni patent is assigned to the assignee of the present application, NAVTEQ North America, LLC. To the extent permitted by law, any statements in the present Amendment regarding the disclosure of the Israni patent should not be used to restrict the scope of claims in the Israni patent.

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**OCT 14 2008****Independent Claim 2**

Claim 2 recites a k-d tree index structure having a non-spatial third dimension that is searchable for a non-spatial property of the indexed geographic data (rank, granularity or scale). As discussed above in conjunction with Claim 14, the combination of Rutledge and Israni fail to disclose the 3D k-d tree index structure with the third dimension of the index including rank information. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent Claim 2 be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 3-6, 8-13 and 15

Applicants' Claims 3-6, 8-13 and 15 are dependent claims that distinguish the cited references at least for the same reasons explained above in connection with their independent base claims. In addition, these claims recite further features and limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by these references.

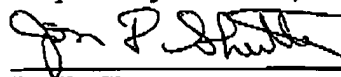
Petition for extension of time

Included with this response is a request for an extension of time to reply to the Office Action dated June 25, 2008. Included with this response is an authorization for payment of the fee associated with this request.

Conclusion

All the issues in the office action, dated June 25, 2008 have been addressed. Favorable consideration of the present application is requested. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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